THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The annual revised edition of the Exim Policy, 2002—07 has been notified on 31st March, 2003. The Exim Policy has identified few engines of growth such as services, Special Economic Zones, agri export zones, export clusters and status holders for giving focused attention so as to achieve the goal of 1% share of world trade by 2007. The Policy also aims to reduce transaction cost of the Indian exporters through implementation of the Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) Programme.

(c) and (d) The objectives of the Exim Policy is to stimulate sustained economic growth by augmenting production and providing services. It also aims to enhance the technological strength and efficiency of Indian agriculture, industry and services thereby improving their competitive strength while generating new employment opportunities. The scheme of export clusters aims to bridge the infrastructural gaps mostly affecting the small and medium industrial units so as to boost productivity and international competitiveness.

Cultivation of Tobacco

3111. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of farming community depend on cultivation of tobacco in the country;

(b) the details of tobacco production showing volume, value, land size and number of farmers engaged for the last five years, State-wise;

(c) whether Government of Karnataka has been taking steps to encourage farmers in the State to shift to other cash crops in lieu of tobacco;

(d) if so, the details thereof along with its result so far;

(e) whether Andhra Pradesh Government has initiated any steps towards gradual reduction of tobacco production by farmers in the State; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Details of FCV tobacco production are given below :

Year	State	Number of Growers	Area Planted (in hectares)	Quantity Marketed (million kilograms)	Value of tobacco (Rupees in crores)
1998-99	Andhra Pradesh	44351	128657	146.41	510.04
	Orissa	125	366	0.55	2.36
	Maharashtra	70	207	0.22	0.60
	Karnataka	18371	54236	54.69	182.52
1999-2000	Andhra Pradesh	44443	128296	130.75	420.36
	Orissa	126	345	0.50	1.77
	Maharashtra	60	119	0.12	0.32
	Karnataka	18427	51989	45.30	190.58
2000-01	Andhra Pradesh			Crop Holiday	
	Orissa	121	466	0.72	3.28
	Maharashtra			Crop Holiday	
	Karnataka	18131	40012	41.98	231.05
2001-02	Andhra Pradesh	44198	87397	119.48	396.91
	Orissa	121	279	0.46	1.76
	Maharashtra	48	78	0.11	0.29
	Karnataka	18751	47699	57.68	220.97
2002-03	Andhra Pradesh	44220	92705	115.85*	**
	Orissa	116	284	0.45	—
	Maharashtra	31	22	0.03	—
	Karnataka	19351	56364	63.26	275.81

(Source : Tobacco Board)* estimated production **Auctions are in progress

(c) to (f) Information is being collected.

MPEDA to encourage Marine Product Exports

3112. SHRI S. M. LAL JAN BASHA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether MPEDA has noted the need to develop strong buyer-seller relations to foster better growth and stability in the export of marine products;

(b) whether it is a fact that a number of US experts have advised MPEDA to encourage marine product exporters to think long term and create trust and confidence in buyers of marine products; and